

**Crown of the Continent Research Learning Center
Roundtable May 28, 2003**

Natural Resources – current issues and needs

Research Needs

- Greater ecosystem habitat utilization (*transboundary*) understanding spatial scale and connectivity; where are important corridors outside park?
- How does landscape scale change outside park boundaries affect the park ecosystem?
- Exotics – mostly plants – what are the biggest threats and how do we most effectively deal with them?
- Recreational effects on wildlife
- Population status and trends
- Social science / social trends

Educational Needs

- Internal communication (between park scientists and managers; between resource managers and rangers) → *issues, problems, results, strategies*; very important because staff represents park to public; Resource education specialist type of position that connected resources with interpretation
- Outreach
 - External communication – educate public as to the value of scientific knowledge
 - Bring park science and resource issues to the forefront in educational initiatives → current science issues should form the bases for new classes at the Glacier Institute
 - Web dissemination – summaries of park science; need counterpart to USGS BRD web person – need easy way to get stuff posted on web; interactive
 - Nursery / restoration has a model for working with community education

Facilitation – Inventory and Monitoring

- Citizen science program (volunteers)
- Abundance and distribution of specific species
- Inventories (pres/abs)
- Grant writing
- Vital signs – Long-term monitoring of health of ecosystem
 - Science advisory committee – will establish scope and strategy
 - Meeting program benchmarks
 - Modeling requirements (ex. biodiversity; nutrients) – science literature search and knowledge synthesis